

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A remote control device that controls any of a plurality of apparatuses by transmitting a remote control signal for controlling a target apparatus in response to a user operation, comprising:

a self-position detecting unit operable to detect a position of the remote control device and generate self-position information indicating the position;

an apparatus specifying unit operable to specify one of the apparatuses as the target apparatus, based on the generated self-position information and a predetermined criterion;

a control operation detecting unit operable to detect a user operation; and

a transmitting unit operable to transmit a remote control signal corresponding to the detected user operation.

2. (Original) A remote control device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

an apparatus position obtaining unit operable to obtain apparatus position information indicating positions of the apparatuses, wherein

the apparatus specifying unit specifies one of the apparatuses as the target apparatus based on the obtained apparatus position information, and

the predetermined criterion is a positional relation between the remote control device and each of the apparatuses.

3. (Original) A remote control device according to Claim 2, wherein

the apparatus specifying unit specifies one of the apparatuses as the target apparatus based on a distance between the remote control device and each of the apparatuses, the distance being calculated by referring to the obtained apparatus position information and the generated self-position information.

4. (Original) A remote control device according to Claim 3, wherein
the apparatus specifying unit specifies, as the target apparatus, an apparatus that is
closest in distance to the remote control device out of the apparatuses.

5. (Original) A remote control device according to Claim 4, further comprising:
a switch operation detecting unit operable to detect a user operation for switching
the target apparatus, wherein
when the switch operation detecting unit detects the user operation for switching
the target apparatus after at least one of the apparatuses has already been specified, the apparatus
specifying unit newly specifies, as the target apparatus, an apparatus that is next closest in
distance to the remote control device with respect to a last specified apparatus, and
the remote control signal transmitted from the transmitting unit is for controlling
the newly specified apparatus and corresponding to the user operation detected by the controlling
operation detecting unit.

6. (Original) A remote control device according to Claim 5, further comprising:
an apparatus information obtaining unit operable to obtain apparatus information
corresponding to an apparatus specified as the target apparatus by the apparatus specifying unit;
and
an image displaying unit operable to display an image, every time the apparatus
specifying unit newly specifies one of the apparatuses, based on the apparatus information
corresponding to the newly specified apparatus.

7. (Original) A remote control device according to Claim 6, wherein

the apparatus information obtaining unit makes a request to the apparatus for the apparatus information of the apparatus and obtains the apparatus information from the apparatus by communicating with the apparatus specified by the apparatus specifying unit; and

the transmitting unit transmits a remote control signal determined based on the obtained apparatus information corresponding to the newly specified apparatus, the remote control signal corresponding to the operation detected by the control operation detecting unit.

8. (Original) A remote control device according to Claim 5, wherein

the switch operation detecting unit detects the user operation for switching the target apparatus by sensing a vibration stronger than a predetermined intensity.

9. (Original) A remote control device according to Claim 3, wherein

the self-position information also indicates a facing direction of the remote control device, the facing direction corresponding to a direction in which the transmitting unit transmits the remote control signals mainly, and

the apparatus specifying unit specifies, as the target apparatus, an apparatus that is closest in distance to the remote control device out of the apparatuses positioned in an area within a predetermined angle in the facing direction of the remote control device.

10. (Original) A remote control device according to Claim 3 further comprising:

a record storing unit operable to store an operation history of an apparatus specified as the target apparatus by the apparatus specifying unit, when the control operation detecting unit detects the user operation, wherein

according to the operation history stored in the record storing unit, the apparatus specifying unit specifies, as the target apparatus, one of the apparatuses whose distance to the remote control device is closer than a predetermined distance.

11. (Original) A remote control device according to Claim 3 further comprising:

a time unit for keeping time, wherein

according to the time indicated by the time unit, the apparatus specifying unit specifies, as the target apparatus, one of the apparatuses whose distance to the remote control device is closer than a predetermined distance.

12. (Original) A remote control device according to Claim 2, wherein

the apparatus position obtaining unit obtains the apparatus position information by receiving position information from each of the apparatuses, the position information indicating the position of the each of the apparatuses, the apparatus position information being a collection of the position information.

13. (Original) A remote control device according to Claim 1 further comprising:

an apparatus information obtaining unit operable to obtain operation information corresponding to an apparatus specified as the target apparatus by the apparatus specifying unit; and

a display unit operable to display an image based on the operation information.

14. (Original) A remote control device according to Claim 1, wherein

the self-position obtaining unit generates the self-position information by calculating the position of the remote control device using a GPS function in which radiowaves from GPS satellites are utilized.

15. (Original) A computer program that enables a remote control device to execute a remote control operation for transmitting a remote control signal corresponding to any of a plurality of apparatuses, the remote control operation comprising:

a self-position detecting step for detecting a position of the remote control device and generate self-position information indicating the position;

an apparatus specifying step for specifying one of the apparatuses as the target apparatus, based on the generated self-position information and a predetermined criterion;

a control operation detecting step for detecting a user operation; and

a transmitting step for transmitting a remote control signal corresponding to the detected user operation.

16. (New) A remote control device for controlling any one of a plurality of apparatuses by transmitting a remote control signal of a predetermined format that activates a selected apparatus in response to a user operation, comprising:

a remote control housing member having user interface controls;

a transmitting unit operatively connected to the user interface controls for transmitting a wireless remote control signal;

a self-position detecting unit in the remote control housing member that detects a spatial location of the remote control device and provides a corresponding signal representative of a physical location; and

an apparatus specifying unit for prioritizing, when more than one of the plurality of apparatus are within an operative range of the transmitting unit, one of the plurality apparatus based on the corresponding signal representative of the physical location of the remote control housing member and predetermined criterion entered into the remote control device, wherein a first in order of priority apparatus from the plurality of apparatus has the user interface controls

automatically customized to the control characteristics of the first in order of prioritized apparatus and the transmitting unit automatically transmits a wireless remote control signal of a predetermined format for controlling the prioritized apparatus when a user activates the interface controls.

17. (New) A remote control device according to Claim 16, wherein the predetermined criterion provides the spatial locations of the plurality of apparatus within the operative range of the transmitting unit.

18. (New) A remote control device according to Claim 17, wherein the apparatus specifying unit prioritizes those plurality of apparatus within the operating range of the transmitting unit based on the physically closest distance apparatus to the remote control device.

19. (New) A remote control device according to Claim 18 further including a switch operation detecting unit that determines a user input, on the interface controls to automatically switch the remote control device to control an apparatus that is the next shortest in distance to the remote control device in the order of priority from the apparatus specifying unit.

20. (New) A remote control device according to Claim 16 further including a display screen on the remote control housing member that provides automatically control indicia coordinated with the user interface controls for the selected prioritized apparatus.